

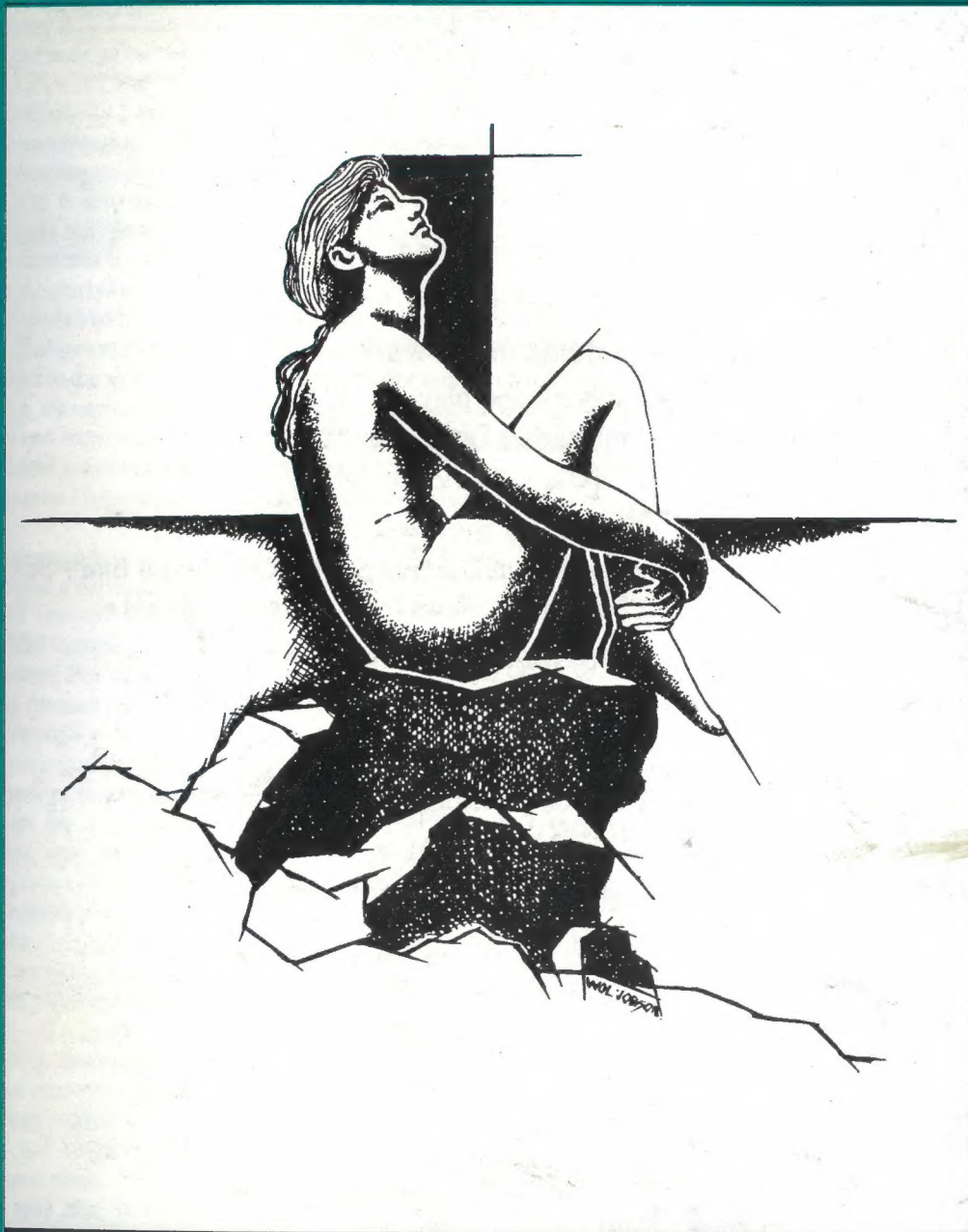
NZPC

Sex Industry Rights & Education Network

This issue
PUMP
Pride and Unity
for Male Prostitutes

SIREN

Magazine for Sex Industry Workers



Issue 9/1993

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NZ Prostitutes Collective

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SIREN

Sex Industry Rights & Education Network

August 1993

27-28 Cover Feature PUMP

Pride and Unity for
Male Prostitutes: a new
series begins...

Thanks to all the people who
have contributed to and made
this issue possible. Siren is a
magazine for all people in the
sex industry, so if you would like
your viewpoint heard, drop us a
line.

Deadline: The next issue of
SIREN comes out sometime in
the next three months. Contribu-
tions for that issue should be sent
during the next two months.
Send your ideas and contribu-
tions to:

SIREN Magazine
NZPC
PO Box 11-412,
Manners Street
WELLINGTON.

Disclaimer: Opinions
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in this magazine are not
necessarily those of the NZ
Prostitutes Collective.

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Guest comment

Speech by Tom O'Donoghue at 10th AIDS
Candlelight Memorial Sunday 23 May 1993

At last year's candlelight memorial when I spoke I introduced myself as a person "living with HIV – the virus that causes AIDS." A lot has happened since then. I now have AIDS. Friends of mine with AIDS used to say to me "you know Tom, it is different having an AIDS diagnosis than being called HIV positive." I never really appreciated why that should be so but I have a clearer understanding of what they meant now. When I was given my AIDS diagnosis last October I quickly got hold of the information on the particular illness I had. It was depressing reading. Statistically I had 142 days left to live – as you can imagine I didn't bother doing any more reading on the topic! But it was as if the AIDS bogey man had taken a huge step towards me. Since then I've had a series of illnesses and spent times in hospital and had a particularly bad time in January this year. I had weeks of being tied to machines with drips. Believe me it was no fun at all. However thanks to the skills of the hospital specialist, drug therapies and the positive support I received from the nurses and friends I recovered and am doing well – to be honest I feel better than I have done for the last two years.

I think I also now understand more about AIDS. I'm sorry if I sound a bit depressing but I feel that we need reminding of just what AIDS is about. AIDS is about attitudes and AIDS is about a virus. For most of us AIDS is a devastating disease – socially, economically, and personally. It shatters our dreams, it causes panic and depression. We fear dying young, and we fear being and dying alone. AIDS can be a protracted, horrible and unpleasant way to die. The emotional pain and distress can't be alleviated by an injection like some physical pain. AIDS is different to other life threatening illnesses in that there is an awful uncertainty of how and when it will manifest itself – it strikes us in a diversity of ways including fungal infections, bowel disorders, pneumonias, blindness, and unusual and sometimes disfiguring cancers – often we suffer these illnesses singly but often we have many of them at the same time.

I earlier said AIDS was also about attitudes. It's bad enough having to fight daily to stay alive and well, let alone also having to fight the appalling and totally unjustified prejudices and stigma that surround AIDS. Sometimes of course this comes from ignorance and fear, but what is inexcusable is having to fight the bigoted attitudes and put up with insults from people who should know better – like some government MPs, journalists, doctors, certain community

groups, and people often held up as pillars of society. Often these critics of ours act under the guise of "Christianity" yet the question must be asked why do you so often publicly and vehemently ferment such hatred and malice towards us? It's certainly not my idea of Christian charity. Many of us with AIDS have deep spiritual needs and indeed develop the spiritual component of our lives rapidly. Yet many of the groups and institutions that could help us spiritually, and, I might add, be equally privileged in knowing us, reject us and even speak out against us. I must acknowledge though, that there are some groups and individuals from the churches that have been very supportive and work hard for people with HIV/AIDS.

My recent illness however also showed that there are lots of people who just shine through in times of need – my friends, family, and colleagues were wonderful. So too were the NZ AIDS Foundation, my GP, the hospital doctors and nursing staff. Two people deserve special mention – one is my partner Kim, whose situation is, as I'm sure you'll appreciate, a very poignant and sad one but without his support I'd never have made it as far as I have. The other person is

a very special nurse called Linda. I know I speak for all of us here in Wellington, Linda, when I thank you for your selfless efforts in supporting us, our families, our partners and friends – very often in your own time and at your own expense. Such nurses are worth every dollar the health system spends on them!

I'd like to remind everyone that it has been people with HIV/AIDS and those most at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS who have been at the forefront of the fight against AIDS. Many of us have worked tirelessly, usually as volunteers, and even when quite ill to help educate and prevent the spread of this disease. We're often the best educators because we can personalise the issue and put a face to this virus. Some of us, like the National People Living with AIDS Union (NPLWA Union) who I represent, choose to work publicly, acting as advocates and providing representation for ALL people with HIV/AIDS to area health boards, government departments, the Minister's office and other community groups etc. Others work quietly among their own circle of friends and families. We all have the same goal

continued on page 4

addresses

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Genelle Gordon

nzpc addresses



Dear Siren

Just a quick pat on the back for your efforts! Well I'm off to make my fortune overseas – had enough of NZ's economic climate. So – to the land of the rising sun – Japan for me and I'm not interested in fishermen either. If you've been there, done that I would appreciate any info or contacts. Please drop into the PC and leave your goodies with NZPC.

Tania

The prize at "The Rut Party"

Don't be a party to your own rut, how true and easy it is to fall into this trap. Especially when things are looking rosy, it's almost like you've won the prize but you've got to take it off the Rat Trap or go to hell, before you can pick it up. So what if you gets tressed out, ripped off, used, catch a parasite or two while you're still trying to pick up your prize, finally after all the pros and cons you manage to hook your prize off the Rat Trap and what have you won? A lesson in life on how to avoid stress, rip-offs, parasites and how to prevent being taken for a mug plus four easy common sense guides on what to do if you ever get TRAPPED AT A RUT PARTY!

What have you been doing till now?

Doesn't seem like a hard question does it, but when you have just stopped "working" and now sitting in DSW reapplying for the DPB it can be very prejudiced against you to say you were a prostitute.

This was over two years ago, before a cooperative DSW emerged. If I was to tell them I was "working" then scepticism would set in about whether I really was no longer working, would I "cheat" the System, etc, etc. So I found an easy answer.

"I've been in a relationship."

"Who with?" came the reply.

With no relationship behind me, other than "work" and being told

that I could not receive benefit until they have investigated the income of my "partner" I felt panic. I certainly did not want to work anymore. They were not interested that the "relationship" no longer existed so I gave an answer that did prove successful in stopping anymore prying.

"It was a lesbian relationship and I'm embarrassed about it."

The interviewer proved to be highly more embarrassed about my statement than I was. With a scarlet trail emanating from her face she fled the room and I had no further problems with my application. It was then I realised that finishing "work" was going to have it's ups and downs but it would pass – or so I thought.

Two and a half years down the track I still occasionally hit the brick wall of social ignorance.

When it came to finding a more socially acceptable job I easily side-tracked the gap in employment as being spent devoting my time to parenthood. This "gap" though I was employed even if society refuses to accept it, proved a hurdle at interviews.

"Did you partake in any volunteer work, training programmes or hobbies during this break?"

Hell, I thought, just lie. So I did and eventually, after numerous rejections headed towards applying for a training programme.

With debts building, no place for my child and myself to live, except with friends, the temptation to return to work was mounting. But inside I knew I couldn't. The thought of returning to something that literally made my skin crawl, the obnoxious clients and equally obnoxious parlour owners and an ex-partner who was licking his lips at the thought of trying to use the prostitution against me in our custody case, I tucked my head in and decided to gain control.

I succeeded and am now studying to obtain a job that will allow

me to provide for my daughter and myself without the social stigma of prostitution.

I still come across those "friends", male of course, that discover my old employment and therefore assume that I'm open game. I now hold my head up when I come across ignorance in the general public with their stereotypical attitudes to the sex industry and their eagerly judgemental righteousness. I know now that if we allow ourselves to be smothered by prejudice then we will never climb out and be able to apply for jobs and have "prostitute" in our applications that will signify that we have adaptability, communication skills and a strength of will that will surpass most "acceptable" means of employment.

Anon Dunedin

Malicious telephone abuse

Dear Siren

I appreciate you publishing this letter. We have been receiving malicious and menacing telephone calls for the past few months on a regular basis. These are not crazies but to the contrary are other parlours and escort agencies.

They are rude abusive or the more so called clever ones make false bookings, after having drained us of information.

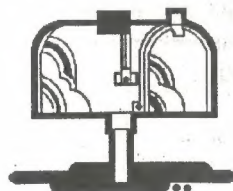
We operate by appointment only and naturally don't accept bookings without very solid verification. However, these calls have been of nuisance value.

Just to let offenders know that we have the CIB and Telecom security on the case. They have charged one offender, whom I won't name at this point. Prosecution is tough and can lead to a jail sentence. So anyone out there in the industry who lowers themselves to this degrading illegal and cowardly practice beware that Telecom Security can trace all calls for up to 48 hours prior to a complaint. We are in the process of having another person dealt to by the law too.

Any other licensed massage business having this problem I would encourage you to follow suit. The police are so helpful.

Thank you

Janet & Kate, The Apartment.



Guest comment continued...

though – to educate and prevent the spread of AIDS. The NZ AIDS Foundation was the gay men's, including those with AIDS, response to the epidemic in the mid 1980s. Political foresight and courage by people representing sex industry workers and injecting drug users in setting up community organisations, introducing the world's first national needle syringe exchange programme, and promoting safer sex behaviours was another successful community response. These community AIDS groups efforts as peer educators for safer-sex and drug using behaviours has kept HIV/AIDS among their client base to a minimum. They are to be congratulated.

Yet we must not get complacent. AIDS is here and still spreading. Like overseas, heterosexuals and particularly women are featuring increasingly in the new statistics. We can stop this disease but we need your help. You can help by providing a supportive social environment for both people with HIV/AIDS and those at risk. People living with HIV/AIDS deserve to lead socially and economically productive, fulfilling and happy lives. Thank you Katherine O'Regan for your courage in introducing legislation to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and disablement – it'll be a big step forward, if it gets passed, for both our personal and the public health good.

Finally thank you all for coming tonight to share with us and commemorate the lives of those who have died. Let us not forget those early and courageous AIDS pioneers, many of whom are now dead. I'm sure you'll know what I mean when I say that all our lives have been enriched by knowing and/or caring for people with AIDS. People with AIDS are indeed Beacons of Hope for a better world.

Tom O'Donoghue

Going for a job

Questions you may like to seek answers to



Working with other people often can be the safest environment for sex work. Having other people close by, and a supportive environment makes it easier to care for yourself. Many people are unused to job interviews and let the employer ask all the questions. However, you probably have fairly definite ideas about the kind of place you want to work, which you don't have answered until you've started.

We've put together some questions which you might like to ask before you begin. Remember, be diplomatic.

- How busy is the parlour/agency?
- How much work can I expect?
- What do the other workers look like, do we all look similar?
- Is there a separate staff room for workers to relax in and get away from it all?
- What are the hours?
- Are there late fees, bonds, shift fees, anything else?
- What services am I expected to perform? Remember because of the existing legislation pertaining to the industry, most bosses will not be in a position to answer all you need to know on this matter.
- Is alcohol allowed on the premises?
- What is the relationship with the police?
- Can I refuse to do jobs with certain clients?
- When do you get paid for credit cards?
- Do you have a driver for escort work?
- What is the safety procedure for escorts?
- What are the house rules?
- Can you have time off?
- Do you have a high staff turnover?
- Do I have to register my name with the police?

Some of these questions may be relevant to you – others not. Maybe reading them has caused you to think up some of your own. This way you feel happier about the place where you are working – and this attitude will pass to the client – meaning more money all round.

TAKING A BREAK...

Every sex worker whose been in the industry long enough understands the importance of "taking time out", lets face it, sex work is a very demanding profession physically, mentally and emotionally. The sex-worker is expected to work long hours, eat fast foods, lend an ear, a shoulder to cry on, arrange the baby-sitter, keep the home fire burning and still look a million dollars 24 hours a day and woe betide her/him if she/he doesn't feel like sex at 5am with the loved one.

So, give yourself a break. I know, I know, who's going to pay the electricity bill etc, etc.

The importance of saving for your "break" is paramount if you want to continue to benefit from your work and be effective at it. If management doesn't support you in your endeavour for time-out get another job. A good boss understands the importance of healthy, happy relaxed staff.

If saving is an absolute impossibility for you and the mere thought of existing on a benefit has you demanding more shifts, compromise, cut back your shifts, supplement your income with a means-tested benefit and take-it-easy.

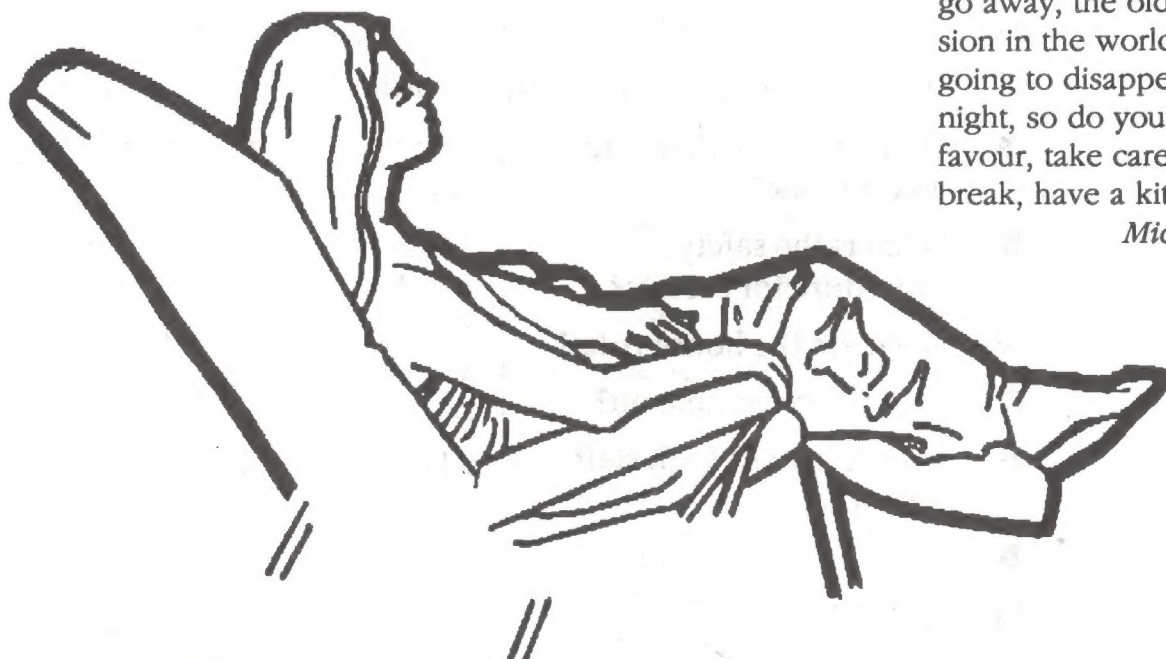
NB with a means tested benefit you must declare your earnings.

WHEN TO KNOW ITS TIME FOR A BREAK

1. When every client makes your skin crawl.
 2. When your jaw aches from clenching your teeth to prevent yourself spitting in the bastards face (there are exceptions to this rule!).
 3. When you pass your jobs on to other workers.
 4. When you are getting completely off your face before every client.
 5. When you can't stand what you see when you look in the mirror.
 6. When you make any excuse to spend as little time in the room with all your clients as possible.
- Etc etc...

The clients aren't going to go away, the oldest profession in the world isn't going to disappear over night, so do yourself a favour, take care, take a break, have a kit-kat.

Michelle NZPC



TALK ABOUT



The Global response to the pandemic (AIDS) is still inadequate and unrealistic. We are still knee-deep in denial and complacency.

The Global response is also stymied by the kind of blaming and fingerprinting that mankind has always engaged in when confronted with a frightening new disease. The stigmatized groups have changed... Today, it is the prostitutes, the foreigners, the homosexuals, the truck drivers who are to blame.

We need to respond with the greatest possible urgency to the people now living with HIV infection and AIDS. Their human rights must be respected, and no discriminatory measures must be tolerated. People with HIV and AIDS should receive dignified, humane care and have access to currently available drugs at affordable prices. This is the least we can do – call it basic decency, call it just plain solidarity.

AIDS is still perceived as a problem that OTHER people are responsible for, not oneself, there is still a knee-jerk reflex to “solve” the problem by testing and identifying these “others”. Instead of encouraging all clients to use a condom, city authorities try to identify infected prostitutes.... Mandatory testing is at best pointless, at worst dangerous – a violation of human rights.

It's time to make the world a better place for AIDS prevention. Empower women: ensure schooling for girls, change discriminatory inheritance and property ownership laws, and strengthen credit facilities for women. Help men and women find a fairer, and safer way of relating to each other.

AIDS must not be allowed to join the list of problems that the world has learned to live with because the powerful lost interest and the powerless had no choice.

We must waste no time in scaling up the interventions that we know work. There is a consensus that a basic HIV prevention package would include at least the following interventions: condom social marketing, that is, the promotion and distribution of condoms in the general population; treatment of the conventional STDs, because of their role in facilitating HIV transmission; AIDS information and education in schools and through the mass media; promotion of condom use by prostitutes and their clients; the maintenance of a safe blood supply; and needle exchange programmes for injecting drug users.

Extracts from a speech given by Dr. Michael Merson (WHO) at the International Conference on AIDS – Berlin 1993



Work

what's in it for me?

Work – Why do we do it? Why does anyone? If your answer is “for the money”, then you’re no different to the majority of the population. But what’s the money for? There are certain issues that are peculiar to the sex industry which make it important for workers to plan for their future with a little care.

Working Life

While there exists those who view their work as a life career, many find the negatives of work too hard to take for more than a couple of years ... Some workers “drift” into the lifestyle and cruise through work without a thought for their future. So, when they opt out it is usually accompanied by a hefty drop in income.

Legitimacy

The nature of the business has always been secretive, so it is not unusual to see workers feeling it necessary to dispose of the earnings – simply spending it all. More and more sex industry workers are seeing the value of going legit with their earnings – paying tax and claiming expenses, seeking the advice of accountants by taking these steps they are dispelling some of the stigma and secrecy that is associated with their profession. They also improve their level of self-esteem and their lifestyles, start to make plans for their future after sex work. Earnings which have been declared can be legitimately invested to form the seed of financial security for the future.

Why Invest?

Many people have reservations about saving seriously. It's often thought that saving means not spending anything, when in fact, it simply means not spending everything. Saving a percentage of what one earns will lead to wealth and security. It's a matter of paying yourself first. So it's particularly important in those professions which have a shorter earning life. For many, the sex industry will be short term. It is therefore wise to retain some of that income while you have the opportunity.

How to Invest?

Many find it an unexciting idea to talk to an accountant or financial adviser. But it's worth looking for a good one – one who will take the time to explain the different forms of investment and help the client to select one or more that suit their particular needs – high growth? accessible? flexible? guaranteed? and so on.

Of course, there are many investments which pay the tax on the earning without mention of the individual client investors to the IRD – such as UNIT TRUST OR INVESTMENT BONDS. And such investments offer either “growth” such as share, or “capital stable” investments – such as



Government stock and property.

If you have an accountant ask him/her. They may not directly offer such investments, but can refer you to a professional who can. This could be a financial planner, another accountant or an insurance office representative. If you don't have one, ask your local NZPC representative if she knows who is sympathetic and discreet.

Take a look!

Like any new idea, the mystery of long-term investing may seem too deep to bother with. But everyone MUST start to save if they want to have dignity in later years.

Take control!

To put the whole thing in a nutshell, the age-old wisdom of Benjamin Franklin is “whatever you earn, spend less!” If you can take control of your money, you take control of your life – and your future.

CONTACT NUMBERS

For information on your local drug user group or needle and syringe exchange scheme contact:

ADIO

227A Symonds St,
Auckland, 09-309-8519

I V Union

91 Grey St,
Box 1942, Palmerston North
063-71-059 (after hours service)

Also:

46 Drews Ave, Wanganui
Thursday 1-4pm

WIDE

282 Cuba St,
Wellington, 04-382-8404

CIVDURG

2nd Floor, 130 Kilmore St
Christchurch, 03-652-293

DIVO

Dunedin, 03-479-2300

AIDS HOTLINE

Tollfree 0800-802-437

Most people who inject drugs will have had a "dirty taste" known clinically as septicaemia or blood poisoning.

The symptoms range from mild shaking and coldness to vomiting, migraine epileptic fits and diarrhoea.

Most dirty tastes are not serious and seem to clear up within 12 hours and though painful and extremely unpleasant, we tend to get used to the danger and can get blasé about the whole thing, which is silly because on the whole, dirty tastes are almost completely avoidable. One serious danger from dirty gear is a heart infection called bacterial endocarditis. This is an infection of the vein walls inside the heart and can cause heart attacks and may be fatal.

Bacterial endocarditis is caused by staphylococcus bacteria and is very common among IV drug users and is a leading cause of death besides overdose.

The bacteria is killed by antibiotics, but a case of bacterial endocarditis is serious and can only be diagnosed by blood culture or ultrasound examination so a doctor's care is needed.

So the best way to fight the problem of dirty tastes is prevention. This is easy if you:

- always boil liquid tastes, eg Bake, syrups, liquid morph if they're not sterile ampoules (cans)
- clean your spoons by wiping them with an alcohol swab and then heating for a few seconds on the stove to heat the spoon

to the above boiling point so that it spits when you wet the back on a sponge

- never use old filters (even a few hours old)
- use sterile water or boiled water if you must use tap water use cold water not water from the hot tap as this is full of bugs (a quick way to boil water is in a spoon on a hot element or lighter, takes 30 secs)
- use new fits or sterilise your fits with bleach twice and wash out plenty of times with sterile water.
- never put your fit or filter on a dirty surface between dregging
- keep drugs in a dry form and make up tastes only as needed as bacteria can grow in water or damp environments
- keep your hands clean – wash with soap before using.

Since I have used these measures I have not had a single dirty taste or headache. With a bit of care there is no reason that a drug user cannot stay healthy and live as long as anyone else. Remember we all have an interest in safe, clean drug use and dirty tastes are a very good reason why!

A concerned consumer with a medical bent.

Dirty Tastes



Often when about to have sex I am asked, "Are you positive or negative?"

I usually reply, "I am negative – but I might be lying!"

The evening proceeds from there and we have safe sex – of course – But I can't help but find the question astounding! If I had replied "negative" does that mean we could have exchanged fluids like snails in a rain puddle? If I'd replied "positive" does that mean we would have had ultra-safe sex or I would have been deserted because of my status?

I have to chuckle, however sardonically it may sound, when I think that the very attitude that is causing these "negative" people to adopt this questioning is also the exact attitude that could make their own status change. And the very people they are persecuting, they will become! Not only is this attitude stupid and uninformed, it is also an example of blatant discrimination against HIV+ve people. What these ignorant people don't realise is that in behaving this way they are putting HIV+ve people at risk.

What may be a slight illness to an HIV-ve person, if exposed to a HIV+ person could be at the least more complicated, and at the most – life threatening. Therefore, it seems obvious that it's not a case of protecting yourself from them, but protecting HIV+ve people from you. To accept this is a move towards giving HIV+ve people the support they need to have a longer healthier life.

Assume everyone is HIV+ve – and protect them by protecting yourself.

And what better way to do it than by keeping ourselves healthy and safe.

HEALTHY LIVING

IMPORTANT VITAMINS

When people are working long hours balancing two lives – one at home and one at work – trying to find time for everything, often our diet and the care we are taking of our health is one of the first things we let slip.

Having a diet with adequate vitamins and minerals seems such a self evident boring thing – however often many of the irritating day to day health problems which we have could be resolved by looking a little more closely at what we are putting into our bodies.

VITAMIN C

Vitamin C helps the body:

- fight infection
 - heal wounds
 - take poisons/toxins out of the system
 - maintain the immune system
 - absorb iron
- and other internal processes.

Vitamin C is destroyed by smoking or by breathing in the smoke from other people.

It is water soluble, which means it breaks down in the body and must be eaten or taken every day. This also means it is safe in high doses – the worst effect you can get is diarrhoea.

You get vitamin C from fresh raw fruit and veges including citrus, cabbage family, strawberries, tomatoes, pineapple, peppers, guava, parsley, cherries. It is also in the liver.

Cooking and boiling vegetables and fruit in water destroy the vitamin C.

If you smoke or work or live with smokers you will need to take supplements – the amount available in food will not be sufficient for your extra needs.

Vitamin C deficiencies include

- bleeding gums
 - infections, hard to shake colds etc
 - poor wound healing
 - poor iron absorption
- among many others.

To absorb vitamin C effectively it should be taken in conjunction with calcium.

VITAMIN B

Vitamin B is not one single vitamin – it is in fact 12 separate important vitamins.

In combination the B vitamins help the body maintain the health of nerves, eyes, digestion, skin, process carbohydrates, fat and protein, produce hormones, prevent anaemia, maintain sex glands among others.

Vitamin B is destroyed by lights, steam, long cooking, high temperatures, long storage.

It is used up especially quickly when the body, or mind is under stress.

It is water soluble. Safe in large amounts, high doses might cause wakefulness and bright yellow urine.

You get vitamin B from liver, nuts, wheatgerm, kidneys, dairy products, brewers yeast, wholegrains, eggs, lentils, seeds, bran, beans, peas, leafy green vegetables.

Vitamin B deficiencies include tiredness, fear, anaemia, skin disorders – including dermatitis, nerve disorders eg “burning” skin, pins and needles, depression, muscle pains, weakness. Long term deficiencies produce diseases such as beri beri.

Adequate vitamin B should come from your diet. However if you are eating refined processed foods for example white flour, sugar, well cooked or few vegetables, and no seeds or pulses then you may not be getting enough.



Also – our bodies need more when we are under stress – working long hours, having hassles, getting up tight.

All these can deplete your body of Vitamin B and you may well need to take supplements.

If you decide to take supplements, take them in the morning, and take a B complex, so that you are ensuring a balance in your diet.

If you don't like pills add brewers yeast or wheat germ to your food.

SPECIFIC B VITAMINS - A FEW TIPS

- **PREMENSTRUAL SYNDROMES**
Some pre-menstrual symptoms such as fluid retention, depression, or irritability and painful periods can be caused by a lack of puredoxine B6. This is in brewers yeast, nuts, whole grain cereals and wheat germ. It can be taken as a supplement – best not in very high doses, 25mg twice a day should help.
- **HAEMORRHOIDS OR PILES**
When you feel the pain of piles coming on the first response is to rush to the doctor. However just by taking a low supplement of Vitamin B6 3 times a day your problem should resolve itself within a few days.
- **VEGETARIANS**
Vegetarians – people who eat no meat or fish are at risk of developing B12 anaemia. This vitamin only comes from food of animal origin such as dairy products or eggs if no meat is eaten – or must be taken as a supplement regularly.
- **ANTIBIOTICS AND THRUSH**
You know how every time you take antibiotics the doctor gives you thrush cream or pessaries. Well, if you take a B complex with each antibiotic you will feel better and not get thrush. To make double sure, include non sweetened acidophilus yoghurt in your diet at the same time. Prevention is better than cure!

Condoms out of work

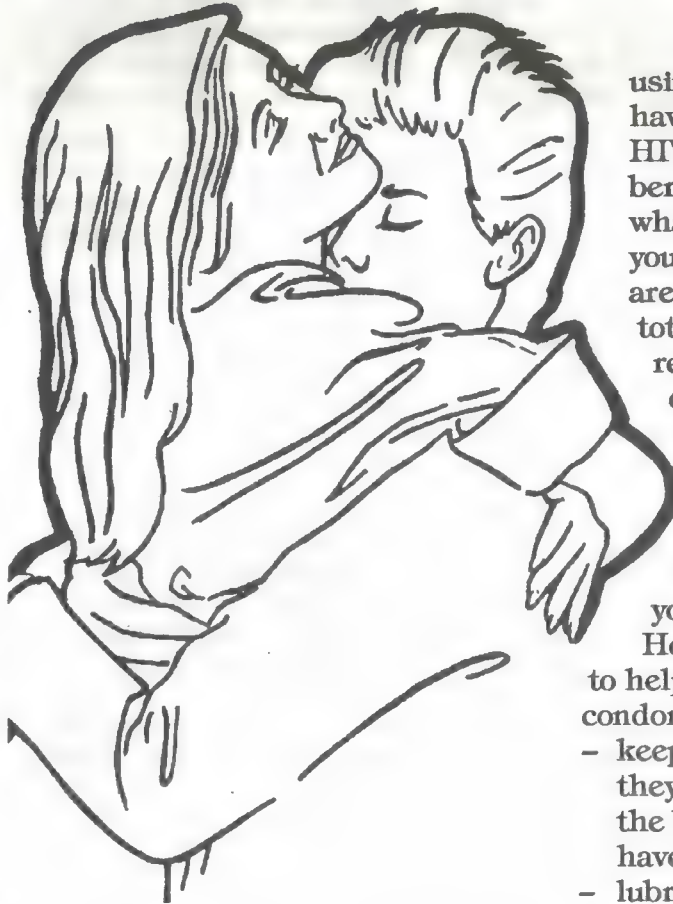
Yes, we're back on that old worn out subject again.

Speaking from personal experience and listening to our friend's chat we've realised that a lot of us just aren't using condoms all the time outside of work. We know it's hard and sometimes damn right inconvenient but this is what we've got to get used to. What is the point in practising safe sex at work and then not using condoms in our private lives?

Some people associate using a condom directly with work, also using them as a mental and physical barrier. Often to these people they are seen as their coping mechanism to distance themselves from their clients. It would be nice to live in a society where it is not necessary to use condoms, but those days are long gone. Some clients probably have less sex than most people we bonk yet we wouldn't dream of not using a condom with them.

It seems our brains go out the window when we leave our places of work. Please don't let the need for that extra little personal touch leave you vulnerable to contracting infections, some of which could be ultimately fatal. It could so very easily. We'll give you an example:

Person A goes out. They get more than tiddly, they get pissed. If they are anything like us along with getting pissed they get exceptionally horny and want to get laid.



Person B meets Person A and lust sparks fly. A and B go home together, neither person mentions condoms and they just end up going for it. This is a far too common scenario, if someone is willing to sleep with you that easily without a condom don't fool yourself into thinking that you are the first or the only one it has been like this with. Chances are it has happened regularly in the past (like last Saturday night).

HIV/AIDS is not a horror story or a joke designed to scare or amuse you, it is a very real threat that a lot of people are too relaxed about.

We mustn't always assume our bit on the side, or casual partner is safe until we've known him/her for a while, Even then it isn't safe to stop

using condoms until you have both been tested for HIV/AIDS. Always remember that you don't know what they are doing while you are at work. Unless you are in an extremely steady, totally honest relationship remember that condoms could be the difference between life and death and that is even before we start thinking about all the other sexually transmitted diseases you could catch.

Here are some handy hints to help make remembering condoms easier:

- keep condoms somewhere they are in arm's reach of the bed (that way you don't have to move)
- lubrication is vital, just because you are not at work doesn't mean that you are going to be wet enough to keep the condom from breaking. Keep the lube beside the condoms and don't be embarrassed about using it. Condoms aren't practical without it. Lubes to use are KY or Wetstuff because they're water based. DO NOT use oil based lubes like vaseline, oil, petroleum jelly as they perish the condom.
- if it will help, try varying the colour or flavour of the condoms
- it is always a good idea to carry one or two in your bag for those spontaneous moments. Remember your local NZPC sells convenient one-use sachets of "wet stuff".

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT

In 1883, a survey of hospitals for that year, showed that Wellington had the largest record of in and out patients with venereal disease (291 patients). By this time there were 38 towns and cities in New Zealand where the Contagious Diseases Act was in force. Very few hospital records matched Wellington, Auckland only had 16, and rural mining towns such as Waimate, Tuapeka, Wakatipu or Thames recorded less than 10 patients with VD (men and women inclusive).

The extent to which VD was such an uncontrollable epidemic in this country is debatable, it is also unclear whether those patients in hospitals with VD were detained or voluntary. The Contagious Diseases Act had been introduced in 1869, following its use in England since 1864, supposedly as a means of controlling VD, but also used by those communities which invoked the Act as law, as a way of regulating the growth of prostitution. (Frazer's Lane, now Aitken Street in Thorndon, was a "known" location of a number of brothels.) Civil disruptions were documented, often in the local press with many cases going to court. In 1886 two prostitutes, Nellie Hamilton and Elizabeth Brighting were arrested for making too much noise, and convicted for 7 days.

Prostitution was accepted in the eyes of the lawmakers, only if it was kept discreet, it was not a legal offence in

itself. However under the Contagious Diseases Act police could order any "known prostitutes" or even a woman who they thought was "behaving" as one, to undergo a compulsory genital examination. If she had VD she was detained either in goal or a hospital ward. If the woman in question was not a prostitute it was up to her to prove otherwise; men were not subject to this Act.

Most prostitutes were not arrested primarily for this occupation, charges varied from larceny, forgery, drunkenness to vagrancy. Women did not always receive sentences, Judges were often lenient if they thought that a woman had a chance of regaining any respectability or if she could be linked to a "respectable" person.

Sentences were never consistent. In 1895 Kate Griffith Morrison was charged with keeping a brothel, her sentence was 5 weeks in goal, where as in 1904 Leah Burril "known prostitute" was tried in Auckland for receiving stolen property and sentenced to 12 months' hard labour.

Ada Lester, alias Emily O'Hagan, also a prostitute, was tried in Napier in 1907, for theft and sentenced to 14 days in prison. Other previous convictions included travelling on a tram without a ticket, she was detained for 24 hours and for vagrancy, sentenced to 1 month in goal.

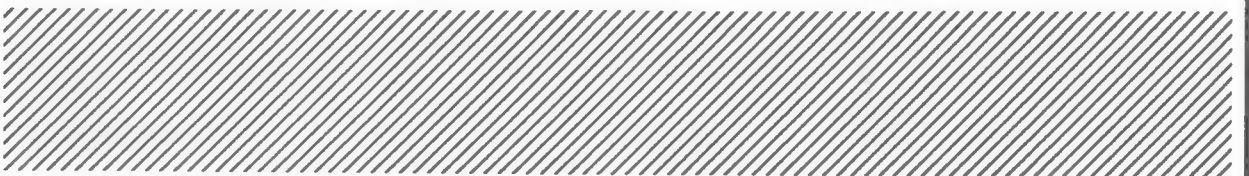
Such double standards as these upheld in the Conta-

gious Diseases Act, saw the polarisation of women into categories of good and bad, "respectable" wives and mothers versus damned whores and harlots. Chaste and pure women compared with those who had fallen and were beyond redemption.

Just as many men as women were divided over the enfranchisement of women in 1893, so too were men and women divided over the issue of an accepted "social evil".

People came together for many reasons to campaign against the Contagious Diseases Act. Those with strong moral religious convictions, sought the total banning of prostitution, whereas women such as Kate Sheppard, Anna Stout and Margaret Selvwright sought the protection of the individual women's rights. These and other women from the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and the National Council of Women (NCW) deplored the legitimisation of such unjust double standards for men and women, which by law punished the prostitute and let the male client free, they also exposed the failure of the Act to contain the spread of VD. Their campaign was successful and the Contagious Diseases Act was eventually repealed in 1910; the "necessary social evil" continued.

*Ruth Greenaway
History graduate*



This issue
SEXUAL REASSIGNMENT
AND HORMONES

Ongoing Network – Transsexual Outreach Project

ON TOP

Newsletter for Transsexual Sex Industry Workers



Issue 4/1993

T. O. P. 'S

Wellington • PO Box 11-412, Manners Street, Phone: 04-382-8791

Auckland • PO Box 68-509 Newton, Phone: 09-3666-106



Transsexual Outreach Project

Wellington News from Karen

The sisters and staff at the Wellington base are proud to announce the opening of the Cuba Clinic. It has been all go to get the clinic up and running. So if you're needing a sexual health check-up or an HIV or Hep C test drop in on a Tuesday evening or Wednesday afternoon and meet the nurse and doctor (and us too). Its free and you don't need to use a real name. I've also been busy visiting transsexuals in prison to offer them peer support. Some of the things I am able to help with are exploring options (how best to spend you time in prison) skill building etc., what's available upon release from prison. Compulsory bats, a fundraising event held recently for the National People Living with AIDS Union was a great success. Special thanks to Alexis and Gaye, the organisers, and to the many transsexuals who performed in the variety show at Alfies in Wellington. It demonstrated how much talent transsexuals have as performers.

Auckland news from Roxanne

Hi! girls. As some of you may know, Monday has been set aside for transsexuals only at the TOP's NZPC office at 76 Grafton Rd (top floor). Ladies this day is specifically for us sisters, please feel free to drop in and get condoms, lube, safer sex literature, we can have a talk, cup of tea and maybe lunch together, or we could even talk about the human rights bill (which does not include transsexuals) and what we can do about it so that it does include us. We are human too and deserve the same rights as the rest of society enjoys. I would really love to see you all, let us all come together and be a force to be reckoned with.

When choosing a psychiatrist there are a few things you can ask your GP to find out for you:

- Has this psychiatrist referred past transsexuals to a surgeon before?
- It may be possible that the psychiatrist is part of a panel, which means he/she may insist that you see other members of the panel before referring you to a surgeon. At present, I know of one such panel of three operating in the Auckland area.
- The cost of the consultations, and how frequent the consultations need to be. \$200/hr, every 3 months is a typical arrangement.
- Be sure that you will be seeing a psychiatrist, not a psychologist, as a psychologist is not qualified to refer you to a surgeon.

I preferred to see a psychiatrist who had referred past transsexuals, but I am told most psychiatrists will undertake this job. Seeing a panel is not necessary and may represent further unnecessary costs, however you will probably only need to see the other members of the panel each once only.

The purpose of the consultations is not to try and talk you out of your desire for a sex change. Recommendations are normally given to those who have stable personality types aside from their transsexuality. You will find discussion centred around how relaxed you are with yourself in your new role, in contrast to when you were expected to relate to your past role. Naturally this will encompass family, friends and interests. It's an easy enough area to talk about and doesn't require any prepared answers. It is in your favour to be employed as a woman over the two year evaluation, and against your favour if you are involved with prostitution or any criminal activities.

Yours sincerely
Karen, Auckland

DEAR SISTERS,

Thanks for sending us "ON TOP's" and congratulations on an excellently produced magazine it has opened our eyes to what is needed here in the UK.

I am delighted to send you a copy of our latest magazine and will put you on our mailing list—we would much like to continue receiving your magazine.

Keep up the good work
IAN, GDT England

DEAR TOP'S

I have just received the issue of SIREN and the first edition of "ON TOP's", I was interested in the item written by Shona in which she states that transsexuals should not be treated like victims of society and I agree should indeed be treated with respect, understanding and that they do have different needs. I also believe that they should have employment as far as I am concerned in my experience most transsexuals have more attributes in some ways than women.

Some years ago I had an all night coffee lounge and as you may expect a lot of late and early hours trade were the sex industry.

Indeed some of my staff were transsexuals and I could not ask for better staff who I had given my full trust. They could and often did the coffee lounge many times during my absence. Even while I was there as I often used to get a coffee and sit down to talk with customers. By doing this also gave me a better understanding of all who worked in the sex industry, I must say I heard some pretty sad stories relating to many growing up.

I am indeed interested re your outreach project and would be interested in hearing from anyone involved. I will in the not too distant future post a cheque to use in any way for you project.

Name and
address
supplied but
withheld



L • E • T • T • E • R • S

MY FIRST CONSULTATION WITH MY PSYCHIATRIST

Dear readers of OnTop,
Recently I had my first consultation with my psychiatrist. As you all probably know, it is necessary to see a psychiatrist over a two year period before you will be considered for reassignment surgery.

The natural order of events leading up to the first consultation follow something like this:

- Begin to dress and live as a woman
- Find a general practitioner who is willing to prescribe hormones (it is important to

present as a woman before the doctor)

- Inform your GP that you wish to commence psychiatric evaluation. Your GP may recommend a psychiatrist to you, but you may choose any one you like. Your GP will write a letter of referral for you which you will require to make your first appointment. I preferred to wait until my hormone prescription had been increased near the final dose, however this was not necessary, but it did give me a little time to settle into my new role.

**10 LINES THAT A
CLIENT MAY USE ON
YOU & 10 LINES YOU
CAN USE ON HIM TO
USE A CONDOM**

- 1 c I hate wearing those things.**
w I never take risks.
- 2 c You are the first person that I have been with besides my wife.**
w This service is all for you darling, this is for your wife..
- 3 c I am too big.**
w I have never met anyone who is too big for a condom.
- 4 c They always break when I use them.**
w Let's try some water based lube with them.
- 5 c I'll pay you more money not to use one.**
w Hey my life is worth more than all the money in the world.
- 6 c I have never had to use them before.**
w I'll give you 6 good reasons: hepatitis, gonorrhoea, warts, herpes, syphilis, HIV/AIDS, now can you give me six good reasons why you shouldn't?
- 7 c I haven't got anything.**
w And with this you won't get anything.
- 8 c Did you know that I have an allergy to rubber.**
w In this day and age there isn't an option.
- 9 c I can't come with a condom.**
w Trust me you will be able to.
- 10 c I can never feel anything.**
w You won't have any complaints or I could give you a hand relief.

Health & Hygiene (even transsexuals aren't exempt)

Penile Hygiene

Even through we, the transsexual, pray to wake up in the morning and find a vagina instead of a penis, we still have this appendage. Therefore we must still use hygienic practices.

Bacteria like warm moist areas on the body where they can multiply profusely. No where better is the area between the legs.

We all know how to clean the penis, more so those with a foreskin. We are taught that from when we were children. It is very important, especially now, when

we have to "tuck" or "tape" ourselves away.

The tighter the underwear, the better we look. We tend to buy "ladies" nylon

underwear which holds us in place more efficiently. This may be so, but, it causes a breeding ground for bacteria and we are more open to infection.

If you have to wear tight-fitting underwear all day use pure cotton. It allows the skin to breathe and allows air to circulate. You can buy anti-bacterial talcum powder which is a good practical item for your health.

If you "tape" yourself, make sure that you can clean the penis with, for example, Eucalyptus oil to remove trace of plaster, and use an antiseptic soap to wash properly.

It is also a good idea to use stockings with a suspender belt, as pantihose tend to keep the groin areas moist, in the summer months.

*Copied from
"Trans-Mission" 1992,
Australia*

TOP'S WORD FIND

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S T N A L P M I N O C I L I S C
A S K Q H L P S K D T B G K T J
S S N W V S A M H U O E S N R Q
T D J I Z V G U C D T T E X V K
H E G T K P L K X I W M O F Z Y
G E E G M C I U T E N G U P R T
I S S D N N O S B G S D I T J S
R D L I G I E T I R R S S R T H
N R T J S V K S S A I U N I L H
A I L R S T S C G T D C L A O U
M B S N I A E Q U N E E A R R Y
U H A T E C U R I L T N M N Q T
H R B R D E K X H T P O H O T P
T K X T E Y E S O O N H T S R C
A E I N F S N H E E O F X V I Z
S V C O N D O M S X X D R X C F

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Find these hidden words in the above puzzle

Birdseeds	Condoms	Dragqueen
Fishnetstockings	Hormones	Humanrights
Lubricant	Plucking	Sexindustry
Sexreassignments	Showgirl	Siliconimplants
Sisterhood	STD	Stiletto
Transsexual	Transvestite	Tricksex
Tucking	Too	





Sexual reassignment and hormones

Sexual reassignment from male to female requires manipulation of the male hormone state. This takes place in two stages.

The first stage involves a reversible chemical "castration". This can usually be achieved by the oral administration of the drug cyproterone acetate (Androcur®). A once daily dose of 50mg is sufficient to reduce blood levels of the male hormone testosterone to that of a normal female (less than 2.5nmol/l). The drug has further advantages in antagonising the effect of male hormone on hair growth but this benefit is not usually seen until 6 months of treatment have elapsed. The drug is relatively safe in this dose but it can cause tiredness. One effect is that the drug will reduce sex drive (libido) as this is mediated by testosterone in the male.

The second stage involves the administration of oestrogen to promote breast development, change in the body shape from a male to female one with a change in body fat distribution. Oestrogen can be given by mouth as ethinyloestradiol. Many transsexuals take this in doses of 50 to 100µg daily. Unfortunately this is a high dose of oestrogen and has to pass through the liver to reach the blood. This has an effect of increasing blood clotting factors and factors that increase blood pressure. This can lead to blood clots in the legs which may go into the lungs. This can be fatal. It may therefore be more advisable to

take oestrogens in lower dose either by transdermal patches (Estraderm®) or by subcutaneous implant. These have the advantages of delivering natural oestrogen (17-β oestradiol) to the blood without high doses going through the liver. The patches (100µg) are usually stuck to the bottom and changed every Monday and Thursday. One small

disadvantage of this method is that the alcohol in the patch may irritate the skin a small number of people. The implants are inserted under the skin of the tummy wall by an introducer which is about the size of a biro. This takes about 10 minutes and a local anaesthetic is needed. Implants need to be repeated every 6 months.

Changes in the body in response to this type of hormonal manipulation are soon apparent but may take several years to reach fruition. Normal pubertal development takes time and nature can't be hurried.

Colin M Feek,
Endocrinologist, Wellington
Hospital 1 April 1993.

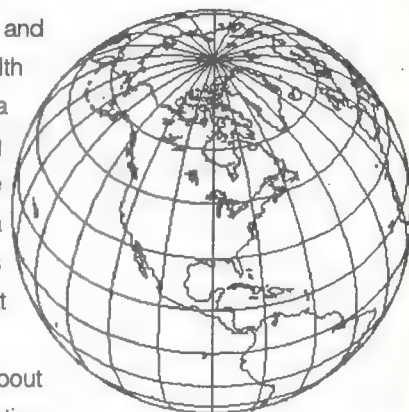
News from overseas sisters

Thanks for the fax. The conference in Amsterdam was great. We had transsexuals there from throughout Europe, plus doctors and lawyers specialising in transsexuality. I delivered a paper pushing my thesis that in reality there is no such thing as just two sexes, but that there is a continuum of sexes and that society just forces us to be male or female. This sparked a lot of lively discussion.

The march on Washington was totally awesome. We had about 12 transsexuals from throughout the country staying at our house, which made it all more fun. One of the guests was the designated transgender speaker Phyllis Frye, who gave a rousing address to 1,000,000 gay, lesbian, bi, transgender, and friends gathered in the middle of our nation's capital. It was then a great fun to march through the streets of Washington, right past the White House, with signs like "We're Transgendered and we're Proud" and "Trans-

sexual Lesbians of America", and "SRS is Health Care, Health Care is Our Right". We had a bearded queen marching with us who was an incredible guitarist and he had a portable amp slung over his shoulder, so we also had great music while we marched!

I've told a lot of people about TOPS. Can you contact Christine over here, she works with our sisters in the sex industry and we just don't have good information



like you publish in SIREN and TOPS.

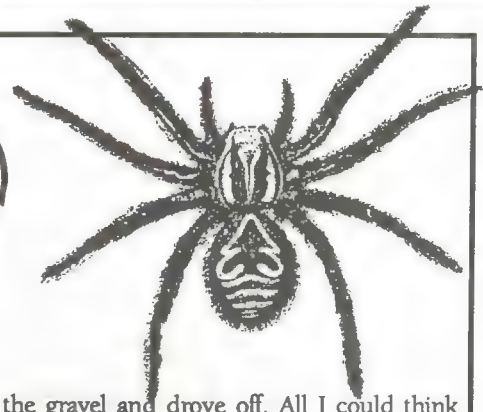
Martine

TOPs provides:

- HIV testing (Wellington only)
- pre and post- test counselling (Wellington only)
- condoms
- lubricants
- peer support
- referrals to other agencies
- quarterly magazine.

RAPED

"A true life experience"



One night I had decided to go out to work, due to the same old story – lack of money. It was about 8.30pm on a cold winter night and I hit town prepared to make a dollar or two.

A client approached in a van. I had seen him around the streets so I thought that he was okay. I approached him and asked him for business. We agreed on a price then I climbed into his van (that was the biggest mistake of my life.)

I told him to go to a certain place, but he put his foot down and said that he was paranoid and knew of a safer place to go. Somehow I got this gut feeling what was going to happen.

I thought "you bastard, you think that you have all the power in your dick and you want to get your rocks off – so if I freely give you a blow job that will be it – he will either take me back to town or dump me off where I was." But was that the case – No!! Sure he came – but then he started to get quite violent. The knife he had pulled on me was now running across my throat and

with a smirk on his face – he threatened to slit my throat.

After about two and a half hours of sheer

the gravel and drove off. All I could think about was it was over, I am alive and I need a hot bath – God I felt so dirty! I could still smell

him on me. I wanted that stink off me! Not realising that blood was pouring from my anus. I put that dizzy feeling down to being punched about and the trickling feeling running down my leg to his come dripping out of me – not that I was losing blood.

I reached the entrance of the quarry which seemed to take forever and a day to reach and I could see in the distance street lights. I kept thinking you're okay cause you're alive.

What a sight I must have looked when I think back. A transsexual knocking on two little old ladies door late at night naked, black and swollen eyes, and blood dripping from here and there. But those two lovely ladies kindly took me into their home and got a double sheet and wrapped it around me. They made me a cup of tea and in their own way were trying to reassure me that everything was going to be okay.

One of them was there trying to convince me
continued on page 18

Transsexuals and Rape – Sexual Violation YOU AND YOUR RIGHTS

AS TRANSSEXUALS IN THE SEX INDUSTRY, WE DON'T USUALLY REPORT SEXUAL VIOLATION to the police for fear of not being taken seriously. Many of us have endured the most horrific acts of sexual violation. We tend to block it out as if it never happened and try to carry on with life as normal.

Sexual assault is a violation of basic human rights and is a serious crime against the individual. No-one deserves to be raped and no one has the right to sexually assault another person.

Detective Inspector Holly Jones of the Wellington CIB says "if any transsexual has been sexually violated (raped), the New Zealand Police will act upon their complaint with a sensitive approach."

Here is a story from one of our sisters who was violated and took it through the Justice system.

hell – being degraded in every possible way you could ever imagine, he threw me out into

Remember you have the right to say no! Its your body no matter what the circumstances are and what your gender is.

If you are raped you should contact your nearest police or call into TOP'S/TEWAHO so we can advise you of your options and give peer support.

If you have been sexually violated in the past or present and you feel that you need counselling the following agencies will assist:

- HELP Centres (nationwide)
- Rape crisis (Nationwide)
- Wellington Sexual Abuse Help Centre
- Citizens Advice Bureaux (Nationwide)
- (Can give you referrals to other counselling

agencies in your area.)

- Accident Compensation Corporation (Nationwide) (ACC has a number of qualified counsellors in this area and you can claim the cost of counselling)
- Victim Support (Nationwide) Wellington (04) 472 3000
- TOP'S/TEWAHO Wellington (04) 382 8791 Auckland (09) 366 6106 Christchurch (03) 365 2595

Handy hints to help avoid rape Street

1. Always take his car registration number – this makes it easier to locate him
2. Try and remember distinguishing features of the client eg tattoos scars etc and his facial feature this can help in giving a identi-kit picture.
3. Don't work stoned or drunk as this can impair you judgement

continued on page 18

to call the police. But hey, let's get real here, they were the last thing I wanted. God, I am a transsexual for Christ sake. What are the police going to say "Silly tranny! That's what's you get for wearing women's clothes and what do you expect us to do about it?"

The old ladies kindly gave me \$20 for a taxi back to town. The taxi arrived and I couldn't sit down on the seat because I was so sore, so I had to lay on my side and had to listen to the taxi driver moaning about getting blood on his precious seats and carpet. I had also previously rung my flatmate. She was waiting for me at the gate – she jumped in and off to the hospital we went. Arriving at the hospital, this was the last place that I wanted to be. I didn't want anyone else to know what had happened to me. All I wanted was a bath to scrub him off and soothe my aching body.

I must thank the doctors and nurses at the Accident and Emergency Department of the local hospital – as soon as they knew what had happened I was on a trolley and whisked away. They were so compassionate – even when they realised that I was not a woman. I don't think that the nurses on duty that night had ever seen anything like it before. To top it all off I had every kind of STD test you could imagine.

Having a district nurse come and change my bandage on my anus daily seemed to be the icing on the cake, a daily reminder of what

had happened and I was trying so hard to block it out, put it somewhere in the back of my mind and leave it there forever. By the way the bath that I had been so longing for that night didn't happen until the next morning. It was so hot that my body turned red and I had to put a whole bottle of disinfectant in but do you think that you can get rid of that dirty feeling? No way! The harder you scrub it still manages to stay all over you.

Physically I was healing but mentally I was a wreck, my stable relationship that I had been in for three years crumbled and there was nothing that I could do about it. How ironic I was a transsexual and I am supposed to like men. What has this bastard done to me? I used to worship the ground my partner stood on but after that night I hated men altogether, be it my partner or brothers etc.

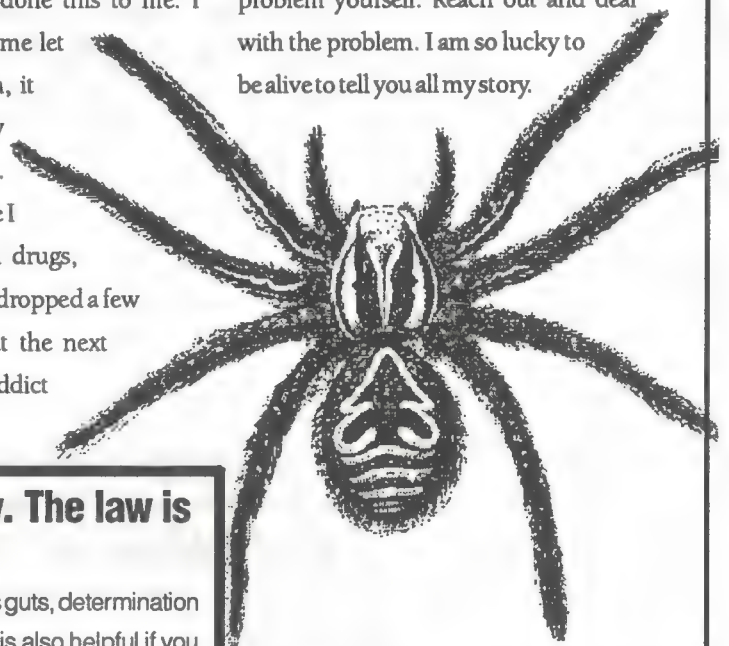
Looking back now I do feel sorry for my ex partner – he had tried so hard to comfort me and take the pain away. How could he? He was a man and a man had done this to me. I couldn't stand him near me let alone have sex with him, it made me want to throw up at just the thought of it. To handle him around me I started a road into hard drugs, sure I had smoked dope, dropped a few pills here and there, but the next thing I knew I was an addict

and alcoholic but who cared, it numbed the brain, blocked out the pain I was so desperately trying to forget and I was surviving the best way I knew how.

I did take him to court and he was jailed for five and a half years but looking back now I would never go through the ordeal of dredging it up in a courtroom again I think that the justice system in New Zealand needs reviewing when it comes to rape. I understand why women who have been raped sometimes never report it.

I will never be the same person and life for the first time in years is looking positive. I have been through drug and alcohol rehabs and recently counselling for the rape with the HELP centre I truly recommend them and I am now living drug and alcohol free also I am learning to deal with the pain of rape.

Even if you don't report it to the police seek counselling, don't take the same road that I took with drugs etc and trying to deal with the problem yourself. Reach out and deal with the problem. I am so lucky to be alive to tell you all my story.

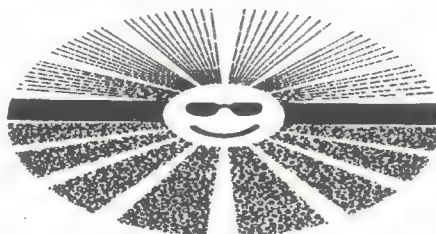


As a transsexual you are covered by the law. The law is there to help and protect you.

4. Check the back seat to make sure that there is only the driver in the car.
5. Don't carry too much money as this could instigate robbery.
6. Never go with more than one client at once.
7. Never carry weapons (most people who carry weapons do not know how to use them. This often leads to the weapon being used against them).
8. Always use the ugly mugs list – this can save you.

Working the street takes guts, determination and a whole lot of luck. It is also helpful if you have your wits about you.

So remember as a transsexual you are covered by the law. The law is there to help and protect you.



RAPE

"A true life experience"

YOUNG WORKER COMMENTS

Kia Ora

My involvement with NZPC stems from when I started working in the sex industry. I started working in the industry about 6 years ago, while I was living on the streets.

Working on the streets as a prostitute was a basic means of survival. The money I made while working on the streets was spent mostly on glue, (as I had a sniffing habit at the time) alcohol, drugs, food and clothing. Being so young then, addicted to glue and without a stable place to live in, I found the idea of working on the streets for money an easy way around supporting myself and my habits.

As a young woman on the scene I had to be mindful of the other trappings and aware of what was going on around me in my work place. There was always danger of being picked up by the police for soliciting as well as drugs and I also had to contend with the older women and transsexuals also working on the streets. I was relatively lucky there, as I knew a few people on the scene at that time.

From time to time, I sensed a sort of hostility from some workers. This "hostility" would get to a lot of the younger women (of my time), forcing them either completely off the streets or by making them tougher and more resilient to

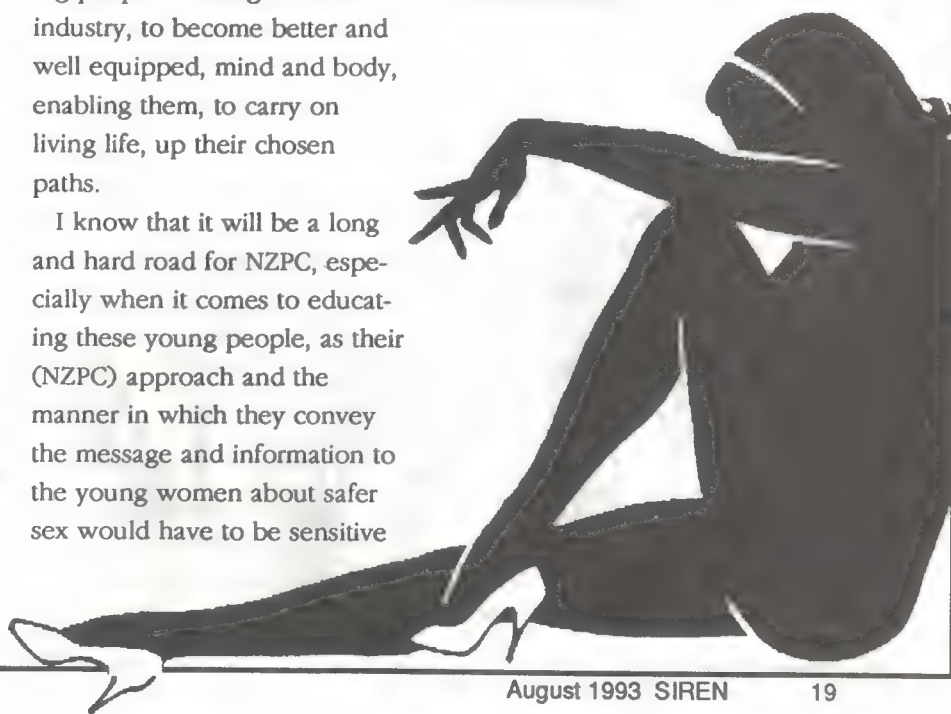
their tactics. I am now 23 years old. I have just finished working in the industry, for now, as I feel the desire to move on and pursue other interests. I have extended to NZPC my concerns for other young people, especially young women who are working in the industry. It is a major issue that I think needs to be addressed.

Up until my association with NZPC I was unaware of the safer sex issue and very naive when it came to the practical use of condoms and lubricants, while working on the streets. I know for a fact that I am not alone when I say this, as I am aware of many young women I worked with in the past and up to the present day are still not well informed about the safer sex issue. NZPC is a network of people, dedicated and committed to educating and empowering people working in the sex industry, to become better and well equipped, mind and body, enabling them, to carry on living life, up their chosen paths.

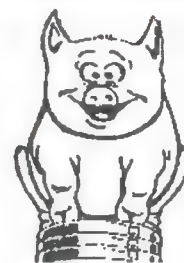
I know that it will be a long and hard road for NZPC, especially when it comes to educating these young people, as their (NZPC) approach and the manner in which they convey the message and information to the young women about safer sex would have to be sensitive

and mindful, given my own experience in the past. I also believe that the law presently, denies organisations like NZPC to reach their full potential as an educating body within the sex industry. As it is at the moment, a lot of young women in the industry do not want to admit they are working in the industry for fear of being targeted by the police, for soliciting. This only pushes the issue "under ground" and complicates things, creating a "cover" and making outreach work and safer sex education harder to accomplish. I think the present law and the lack of resources are sorry excuses for work (safer sex education) which will not only benefit people working in the sex industry but all people.

No reira, kia tau te rangimarie kia katoa. Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa



To save or not to save



I don't really know whether I am the right person to be writing this article as I have never ever saved. The reason why I think I should write it is that I know through bitter personal experience what happens if you don't.

While working over the last few years I have always meant to put some money away for a rainy day because believe me sometimes it pours. I don't mean saving thousands and thousands of dollars (although that would be nice) but just a few hundred that will be safe in the bank for when you really need it. We all know that bad weeks exist where you make hardly any money but we

also know that during those bad weeks all the bills still have to be paid.

In my experience I dealt with that by swapping what money I did have around, paying only bits and pieces of bills or not paying them at all. This became a total vicious circle with me getting more and more in debt all the time while also praying that I never got sick, or needed anything important in a hurry. Eventually over a period of two and a half years I got myself into such a state with bills behind and just a general financial mess that drastic legal action was taken.

I am not saying that if I had had savings I would have been okay, I

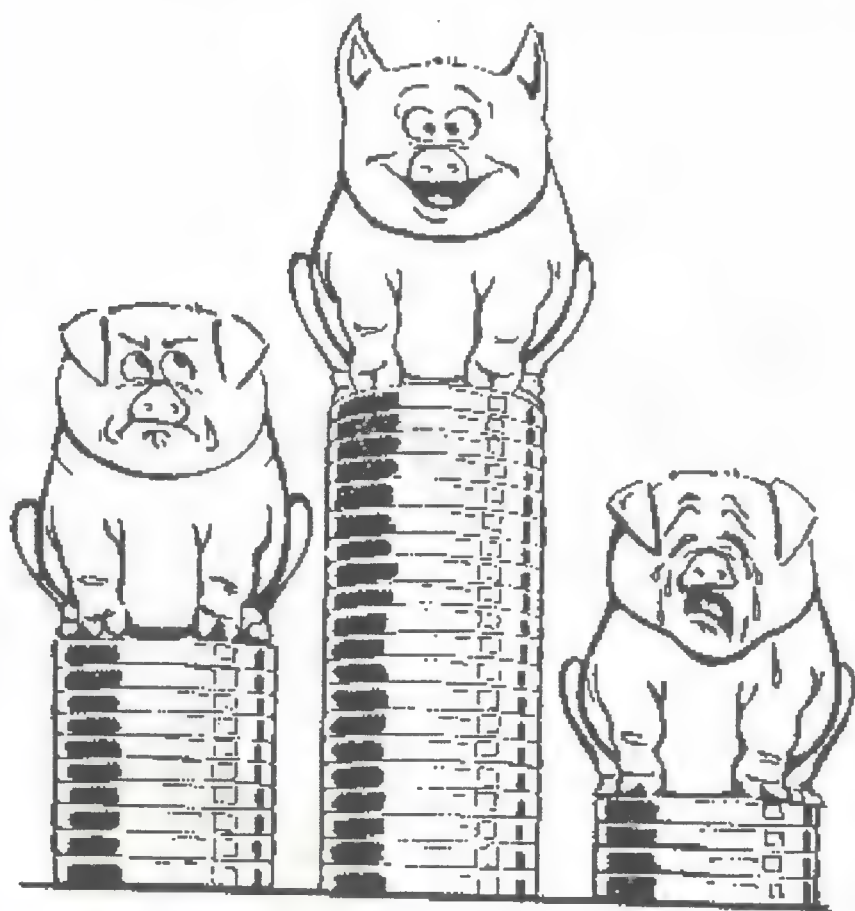
am saying that I probably might not have got into such a mess in the first place. I have had friends who have saved and the impression that I got from them is that they had a better idea of the value of money and were more organised with it. I think that it is important to know what you do with your money and to try and stick to some sort of budget.

To start with try saving ten or twenty dollars a week, when you are used to that aim for a higher amount and slowly build from there. Once you have been saving regularly it becomes easier and almost second nature and you even get quite proud of what you have in the bank and try to increase it. In tough times like the ones that we are having at the moment it could be the difference between you making it or you getting in the shit.

One last piece of advice from someone who has made a real mess is don't over-extend yourself and if you are having financial difficulties try and do something about them before they get really bad. There are quite a few places and people out there who have the knowledge and will be willing to help you, try Citizen's Advice Bureau for a start.

I hope this might help someone, do it for yourself and you never know you might grow to like it.

Name supplied but withheld



Something I know I have in common with other women working in the sex industry is that of some sort of abuse.

When I look back on my life a lot comes back to me. One memory I'd like to share with you stems from a chapter in the book of my life so far.

I came to Wellington as a very innocent and very green young woman from real hick town, tucked away somewhere on the East Coast. Off to Wellington I went. I was out to make my way in "the big world", "The real world". I was fortunate to find really good and stable accommodation in the city. A few months later I landed a job out in Miramar and also scored a part-time job delivering goods for a trucking firm. At that time in my life I really thought I had it made. I also had another ambition and that was to work hard out, save all my pennies and move on to supposedly greener pastures in Australia. I was so keen on saving and got so carried away and hungry for that "mighty dollar", that I decided to explore other avenues of making money. The person I was staying with at the time had dabbled from time to time in the industry, namely street work as a prostitute. She filled me in and gave me the low-down on what goes on. I remember going through my wardrobe, looking for the most provocative, revealing outfit I could find. I went out that night and came back with \$\$\$\$. I thought then that this has to be the easiest way I know to make a buck and from that point on I was hooked. So now I had three jobs, and I knew sooner or later something would have to give. My two straight jobs gave in the end. I mounted a full scale, full on commitment to getting out on those streets and making that dough.

I remember the night I met up with him (him being my future partner). He was good looking, charming and witty. I thought he was a dream. After a few meetings and rendezvous, we decided to get together. At the time he was



Live to Tell

living on the streets. I don't know why I got with him back then, I was so smitten with him that I threw everything out the window for the man. We lived a nomadic life street existence for about three years together as a couple, with other street life as well. I started sniffing glue, drinking heavily and popping the occasional pill. All of the girls I knew back then that were also living on the streets, were cracking it. We'd all assemble at Cobblestone Park (commonly known to us as "Demon's Park") and go off and crack it for money, usually to spend on glue, drugs and food. My boyfriend would quite often send me out ahead of the others so as to catch the early worm, and hopefully make more money. He started to get really aggressive at this stage in our relationship, especially if I didn't come back with any money, or even if I had spent it on myself. He started to beat me constantly and with the severity of some of the beatings I was hospitalised frequently.

The day I left him I remember well. I woke up still concussed from the night before, I had endured yet another bashing, only this one had to take the cake. I really did look hideous, like an alien from another planet. I stared

in the mirror at myself and broke down and cried. I thought to myself "what had happened to the full of life, ambitious young woman I knew was once my own reflection. My love for this man had turned from love to hate and contempt. I walked into where he had slept that night and told him it was over, I wanted him out of my life and this time I meant it. I wasn't going to go running after him begging him for a second chance, no way! this was the last straw. Believe it or not he left quite peacefully and promptly. I suppose he thought I'd come running back to him as I had done so many times in the past, but I knew it was through. I finally wised up to his numbers.

I'm still now plodding along, giving life a go as best I know how. I'm still working in the industry, on the streets occasionally but mainly private escorting, and all the money I make, I now determine how and what I spend it on. I haven't been in a relationship as such since the ex-boyfriend I've mentioned in this story, but I'm not ruling relationships out altogether. I still bear the scars of the violence and abuse I tolerated from my ex-beau. I still feel bitter when I think about that whole situation and especially him, but life goes on. I just want other women out there, working in the industry and out there in general, to know that we do share common interests, pains and sufferings and I know that my shoulder will be a reliable one to lean on. If you are going through the same scene as I have experienced I offer you encouragement to be strong and make the best and right choice to make life better for yourself and get out of any relationship that is violent and abusive. I know that I'm lucky to be alive to live to tell, besides, there's a lot to look forward to when you're out of that scene.



DENTAL DAMS

Alias condoms for fannies

These are vanilla-flavoured squares of latex, available from PC for \$1 each.

Why, you may ask. Well, do you really want a client with bleeding gums or a streptococcal throat infection licking you?

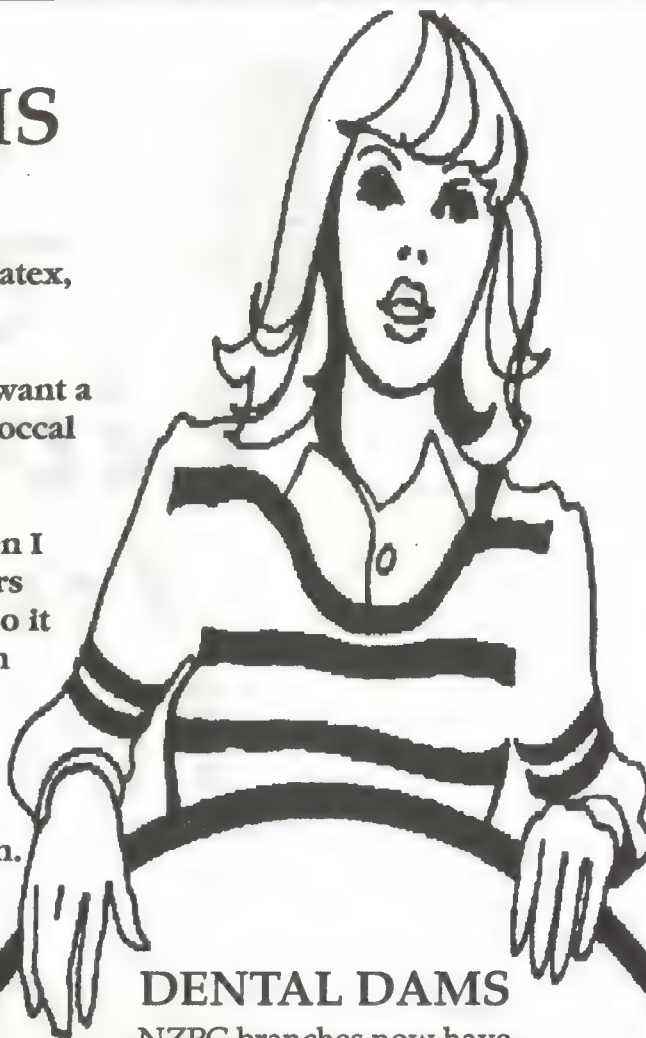
So far, one client said don't bother when I pulled a dam out, and none of the others used theirs for more than 15 seconds, so it looks as if they may take a while to gain acceptance.

However, they have two great reasons why we should use them. The obvious one is to prevent the spread of infection.

Less obvious, is the psychological reason: they make oral sex feel less intrusive and personal. In the pre-dam days I hated oral sex from clients and there were very few that I would agree to do it with. When I use a dam it feels a lot less personal and it doesn't bother me.

They should be used for doubles as well. I've done doubles where I couldn't fake going down on the other lady because the client kept pulling my hair out of the way and watching. I've also looked after a woman while her husband watched, and her personal hygiene wasn't all it might have been. Having a dam available would have felt a lot better, as well as being safer.

Debra



DENTAL DAMS

NZPC branches now have

a supply of large, very fine dental dams for sale – \$1.00 each. These are already proving very popular. Dental dams were originally used by dentists – hence the name – but have now been adapted for oral-vaginal and oral-anal sex.

Ours are 20x15cm, ivory coloured, smelling of vanilla and quite see through. But what do you do with them?

Dams are used to stop transmission of body fluids – like a condom. You hold them over the vulval area – including the vagina and clitoris – or over the anus for oral/anal sex. This is a two handed operation. Put a bit of water based lubricant on the side that won't be licked.

This stops irritation and dryness.

Hold it over the area the entire time. Can be used if a guy goes down on you or for doubles. Always hold the dam yourself. Don't reuse dams, share them or use the same one for oral and anal sex – anal organisms can harm the vagina. They can also be used to cover balls for sucking and licking. Remember dams protect you against diseases he may have on or in his mouth.

Sexual Health Services (STD Clinics) offer a free, confidential consultation. Call them if you would like a check-up. Remember, you don't have to give your real name. Here's a list of the Sexual Health Services (STD Clinics) in your area.

Auckland Dept of Genitourinary Medicine, Building 16, Auckland Hospital.
Tel: (09) 307 2884

Auckland (South) STD Clinic, Manukau City Health Centre, Wiri Station Rd, Manukau City. Tues, Thurs 3pm, Wed, Fri 9.30-11.30. Tel (09) 263 7604 or 262 2011 ext 811

Auckland West STD Clinic, Waitakere Hospital, Henderson. Tel (09) 838 6199 Fridays only or 837 2777

Ashburton Hospital STD Clinic, Private Bag, Ashburton. Tel (03) 308 4149

Blenheim STD Clinic, c/- Wairau Hospital, Blenheim. Tues 9-11.30am, Thurs 4.30-6.00pm. Tel (03) 577 1913 or 578 0199

Christchurch STD Clinic, Christchurch Hospital. Mon, Tues 10.00am Fri 10-1pm. Tel (03) 640 485

Dunedin STD Clinic, Outpatients Department, Dunedin Public Hospital. Mon-Fri 8.30-4.30pm, Wed 9.30-6.00pm
Tel (03) 474 7919

Gisborne Tairāwhiti Area Health Board, Community Services, Tower Corporation Bld., Grey St, Gisborne. Mon 5-7pm, Wed 8-10am, Fri 1-3pm.
Tel (06) 867 5911

Hamilton STD Clinic, Clinical Services Block (Basement) Waikato Hospital, Hamilton. 8.00-4.30
Tel (07) 839 8732

Hastings STD Clinic, Memorial Hospital, Hastings. Tues 3.30-5.00pm Thurs 4.00-5.30pm
Tel (06) 878 8109 ext 7620

Invercargill: Howard Hunter Clinical Services Block, Kew Hospital, Invercargill. Mon, Wed, 5.00-6.00pm Fri 11.30-1.30pm
Tel (03) 218 1949
Gore Tues 11.30-1.30pm

Napier VD/STD Clinic: Hawkes Bay Hospital Board, Napier Hospital, Napier. Mon 3.30-5.30pm, Fri 5.30-7.00pm.
Tel (06) 835 4969 ext 8897

Nelson STD Clinic, Nelson City Medical Care, 202 Rutherford St, Nelson. Tues 10.00-12.00pm, Thurs 5.30-7.30pm
Tel (03) 546 8881 or 546 8693

New Plymouth STD Clinic, Outpatients Dept, Taranaki Base Hospital, New Plymouth. Tel (0675) 36 139

Palmerston North Clinic 9 Heretaunga St, Palmerston North. Women: Mon 11.00-12.00pm Thurs 2.30-4.00 Men: Mon 3.30-4.30 Wed 3.30-4.30
Tel (06) 350 8602

Rotorua STD Clinic, Rotorua Hospital. Ground Floor, Edward Guy Wing, Mon 8.00-10.00am, 4.00-6.00pm. Thursday 8.00-10.00am
Tel (073) 348 1199

Tauranga STD Clinic, Tauranga Hospital, Cameron Rd. Outpatient Dept. Tues 10.30-12.30pm 2-6.30pm.
Tel (075) 778 131

Timaru STD Clinic, Timaru Hospital. Tues, Thurs 5.00-7.00pm
Tel (03) 684 3089

Wanganui STD Clinic, Wanganui Base Hospital Mon, Thurs from 5.00pm
Tel (0634) 53909

Wellington STD Clinic, 175A Adelaide Rd, Newtown. Mon-Fri 9.00-5.00pm. Tel: women (04) 385 5997 men (04) 385 5996

Whakatane STD Clinic, Whakatane Hospital, Stewart St, Outpatients Dept. Wed 11.00-1.00pm 2.00-5.00pm.
Tel (0730) 78 999

Westland STD Clinic, Grey Hospital, Greymouth. Tel (03) 768 0499

Whangarei STD Clinic, Whangarei Hospital, Whangarei. Tues 4.30-6.30pm, Tel (09) 438 2079

HIV/AIDS TESTING

All SHS (STD) Clinics and NZPC in Wellington offer free, strictly confidential pre- and post-test counselling. Pre-test counselling explains what the test is actually looking for and also enables you to talk about the behaviours you have practised in the past, which relate to the need for you to have a test: eg unsafe sex, sharing fits. Post-test counselling covers

the significance of a positive or negative result. Bear in mind the HIV antibodies can take up to 3-6 months to show up in a test. NZPC **stresses** it would be a good idea to use only a code name for the purposes of a test. **DON'T** give your real name. However, the clinics may need some way of contacting you. You can work this out with them.

Living with Hepatitis C

You probably know that Hepatitis C can have serious consequences like cirrhosis or cancer of the liver. It can reduce your enjoyment of life but you probably haven't been told that you can do a lot to get back your quality of life, and avoid long-term liver damage.

Learn these simple rules below, then learn further about liver function and cancer and their relationship with nutrition.

AVOID: chemicals and foods that are toxic to the liver.

ALCOHOL. To continue drinking alcohol, even wine or beer in small amounts when you have Hep C may well ensure a miserable time, and increase the chances of death from cirrhosis.

PARACETAMOL decreases liver function, again even small amounts may cause long term damage in persons with Hep C. Use aspirin, give young children or persons sensitive to aspirin chamomile tea. Many other drugs are hepatotoxic, but there is always an alternative.

SMOKING increases the risk of all cancers, including liver cancer. Roll-your-owns contain less carcinogens (cancer causing chemicals) than tailor-mades. If you want to give up smoking, remember nicotine (in chewing gum) is not a carcinogen, it is smoking that causes cancer.



DOLOXENE, DEXTRIPOPOXYPHENE, the drug in doloxene, digesic and capadex are far more toxic to the liver than the other opiates which they resemble.

OPIUM, MORPHINE, AND HEROIN are all relatively non-toxic but the process of intravenous injection puts the liver at risk. Oral use of opiates is far safer. Synthetic opiates such as Palfium and Methadone may be far stronger in a person with liver damage, there is an increased risk of over dosage, but continued use of methadone by an addict seems OK.

CASIEN is the complex protein in milk. Cheese and ice-cream contain it in large amounts. Some kinds of liver cancer are made worse by casien, in these cases the tumour can be reduced by taking the B vitamin biotin. In a person with an increased risk of liver cancer it seems wise to reduce the intake of cheese, milk and milk products. At the same time increasing the intake of vitamin supplements which contain

useful amounts of biotin (foods like wheatgerm and sprout are amongst the many which contain biotin).

FATTY FOODS. If your Hep C has any symptoms, you'll be feeling like death every time you eat deep-fried takeaways and junk foods such as potato crisps. Twisties, Munchos etc. These are all made by deep frying food in fat or vegetable oils. Small amounts of cold pressed oils may be beneficial, red meat and organ meat is not harmful but avoid bacon and other fatty meats.

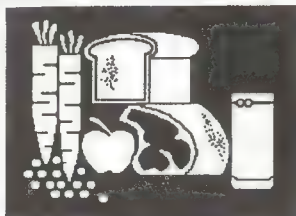
IN GENERAL if your Hep C has symptoms you will know whenever you have eaten something your liver can't handle. If you really can't cope, go down to a rice and lentil diet and add other foods one by one. This is the only way sometimes to detect foods which are causing trouble. Green, yellow and orange vegetables are all safe. Avoid chemicals such as fly spray and flea powered as there is always an alternative.

VITAMINS. In an industrialised society there can be no such thing as a "normal balanced diet". Some vitamins which are removed from foods assist the liver to deal with fats and toxins, others protect against cancer.

B VITAMINS. Always take the complete vitamin B complex when you take a B vitamin, as each is more fully utilised in the presence of the others. Those which are most useful for liver function include Choline and Inositol, which aid the breakdown of fats, and Biotin. Always choose a vitamin B complex which contains these vitamins. Vitamins available on doctor's prescription are weak and don't contain useful amounts of these vitamins, ask in a health food shop.

VITAMIN C in steady high doses will protect against cancer, as will vitamin A. (see the list of books at the end of this article).

HERBS. Many bitter herbs have long been used to cure hepatitis and improve liver function. At least one, dandelion root can reverse the effects of cirrhosis (scarring of the liver). Your local health food shop or naturopath will know of many more. Homoeopathic medicines are not adequate in the presence of real organ damage such as hepatitis. Bitters are not usually dangerous, use the highest



recommended doses. Nutmeg sassafras are toxic to the liver and must be avoided even in small amounts, as must hops (in beer). A preparation called "herbs of gold liver conditioner" which contains St Mary's Thistle, fringe tree, dandelion, gentian, alfalfa, yellow dock and celandine is also useful. If you're down from the effects of hepatitis, tired and depressed, you won't believe the relief you'll get from a single 5ml dose of a preparation like this. The normal stated dose is adequate for a healthy person, you may need to use more. There are probably better herbal liver tonics than this available, they all work, it's just that some are stronger than others.

STUDY THESE

BOOKS: Cancer and Vitamin C Linus Pauling and Ewan Cameron.

Orthomolecular Nutrition (various books on this subject are available)

Nutrition and Vitamin Therapy

Look for more information about liver function, hepatotoxicity and lipotropic nutrients (those that digest fats). You may have Hep C, but you can make damn sure that it doesn't kill you.

George D Henderson

NB these guidelines are also appropriate in the case of Hepatitis A, B, or liver disease including cirrhosis or cancer from any other cause, and for the prevention of liver disease.

S★P★O★N★G★E★S

★ THE FIRST NIGHT I WORKED I ONLY DID HANDJOBS AND BLOWJOBS BECAUSE I HAD MY PERIOD, AND NOBODY TOLD ME ABOUT SPONGES. ★ Sponges can be pushed high into the vagina just before you have a client, and removed afterwards. Looked after carefully, they are a safe, clean, convenient way of hiding your period from clients so you can keep working. ★ Choose a natural sea sponge, as they absorb more than synthetic ones. They squeeze down smaller too, which means your clients are less likely to feel them. If it is large, ordinary scissors will cut it down easily. I find that about twice the thickness of a tampon is about right. ★ Rinse it thoroughly, as it might have irritating grains of sand in it, then squeeze it as dry as possible. Insert it as you would a non-applicator tampon. Then use much more KY or other lubricant than usual, as the sponge tends to absorb that as well, leaving you dryer. ★ Never work dry, and don't be shy to stop and put more KY in if you start to get dry. DRYNESS BREAKS CONDOMS! Say things like "sex turns me on so much more when it's really slippery" and since most men want to believe that they're turning you on they accept this quite happily. ★ Fishing it out afterwards can be tricky until you get used to it. A couple of my friends have gone rushing off to the Sexual Health Service because they couldn't get it out! Either squatting down, or bending with one foot on the edge of the bath or loo seems to work well. Wash your hands, then feel up with one hand until you can touch the sponge. Sometimes if the client was large, the sponge will be lodged up behind your cervix. Do not panic – there is nowhere else it can go! Use your forefinger and middle finger to grip it in a scissors action, and push down as though you are straining to go to the toilet. Pull it out, rinse thoroughly, squeeze as dry as possible, and re-insert. ★ At times when you would go through a super tampon in 3-4 hours, you will only get an hour out of your sponge, so rinse regularly. Rinse more often if you have a cold or hay fever – when you sneeze, your vagina muscles are likely to contract, and if your sponge is nearly full it will leak. ★ I rinse mine out very thoroughly at the end of my shift and leave it in a weak Dettol solution overnight, At the end of my period I soak it for a few minutes in a mild bleach solution, then squeeze it and leave it dry in a jar with no lid in the bathroom cupboard. Some ladies prefer to get a new sponge for each shift, but personally I don't consider it necessary as long as it is cleaned thoroughly. Cleaning it in white vinegar seems to make it last the longest, but never use malt vinegar as the sugar in it encourages thrush to grow, I prefer bleach, because I know it kills all the bad bugs, and I suspect the Dettol wasn't killing thrush either, but bleached sponges fall to bits after 2-3 months. ★ Chemists and some massage parlour operators can sell you a small sponge for \$3-5. The really good news, if you're lucky enough to live near a Prostitutes Collective office, is that they sell a packet of 5 for \$5. ★

Debra

HELP!!!

I'VE GOT CRABS

Here I was, lying in bed for the second night in a row, scratching my pubes. What on earth is going on down there? Time to turn on the light, throw back the covers and have a look. Well guess what? I can't see anything. Let's have another look. Does anybody out there realise how hard it is to have a decent look down there? As soon as you bend in the middle so you can get your eyes closer, your tummy kind of crinkles up and your pubes end up almost vanishing between your legs. Anyway, to cut a long story short, I finally noticed these tiny little things on some of my hairs. After a lot of effort I managed to pull one off.

OH MY GOD! It's a wee crawly thing with legs, I was absolutely horrified. What on earth was I going to do?

First things first. I was on the phone to a few close friends. They'd never had them, and didn't have any practical advice. (One of my so-called-friends suggested shaving off all the hair). I then rang the after-hours doctors. They told me to mix a cup of warm water with 1 teaspoon of baking soda, and to wash the area with this. They said it would stop the itching overnight and I could get something over the counter at the chemist in the morning.

I went straight to the chemist the next day. After giving me some cream the chemist told me that pubic lice don't live for more than 1 hour if not attached to a hair, or if maimed. His advice included giving the area a vigorous brushing after treatment with the cream. Even if they just lose a leg or something they'll die. So all in all things weren't as bad as I'd first thought.

One last word, don't tell your friends. If they're anything like mine they'll laugh at you.

Name supplied but withheld

NZPC suggests you use benhex cream.



PUMP

Pride and unity for male prostitutes

Kia Ora

Greetings to all involved in the male sex industry! Escorts, street workers, beat workers, owners, operators, drivers, receptionists – PUMP is for you!!

I have recently come into contact with the sex industry and my first source of support was the Prostitutes Collective. I have since started working for them in a voluntary capacity. During this time I have sometimes been appalled at what I have heard and at other times excited – but this does not matter. What is important is that I feel more informed!

In the 1990s, a sex worker must have an understanding of sexual health issues. The nature of our job brings us into contact with a lot of misinformed people. Not only clients, but also fellow workers in the industry. What they tell us may not be true. We need to protect ourselves, our health and our income by finding out the facts. It is our responsibility!

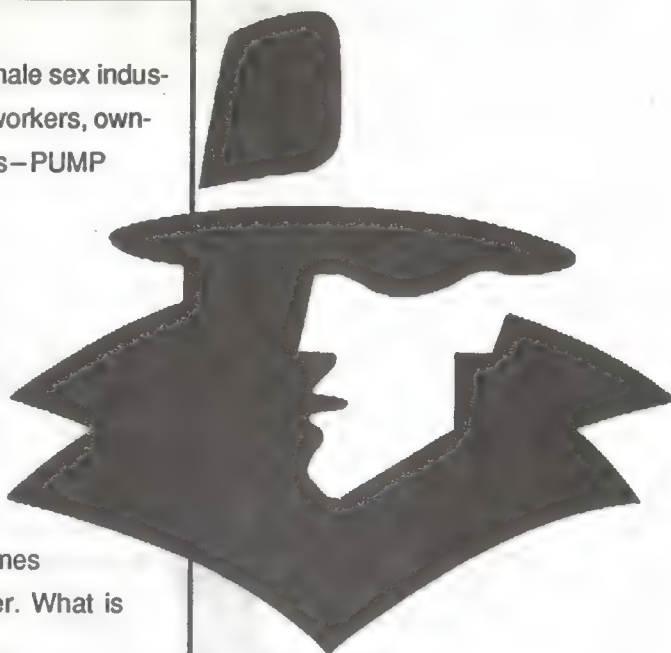
Safety is definitely the issue! Safety, not only from HIV but also STDs – and in a broader sense, manipulation, both mental and physical.

In achieving this we can make our work environment a better place!

Love life – Keep safe.

Ka kite ano

Stephen



→ PUMP came about because of the initiative of Garth (Trade Secrets) and also because of the "Drop-in" nature of the Prostitutes Collective. → A few of us involved in PUMP decided we should have a day where we could get together. → Not a Boy's Only Day! (of course) – but since there aren't that many of us out there, we thought it was best if we chose one day. So we in Wellington chose TUESDAY and since we are mostly night creatures, we thought it more appropriate to make it an afternoon affair. → Any other Guy's wishing to do the same in other areas should contact their local Prostitutes Collective, or they could contact me at Prostitutes Collective (Wellington). See you for coffee! →



COMMENTS FROM MALES IN THE SEX INDUSTRY

"The sex industry was an alternative avenue for me and a friend to try out the Gay scene and Gay sex."

"There seems to be this elitism amongst active male sex workers – especially Gay males – they have this attitude towards bisexuals that I can't understand."

"When I first started, my knowledge of HIV/AIDS was limited."

"I won't go with a client if he doesn't wear a condom."

"One client gave me the money – I did the work. When I finished he picked up a bit of wood and whacked me around the head with it and took his money back."

"I personally think that all male sex workers need a support group."

"Well, the truth of the matter is, I am really a private person at heart and I am not sure I have the courage to declare my vocation publicly – However, it's great to know that we in society have some support – even for 'closets' like myself. Thanks a lot for the friendship, material and the education."

"My family are fully aware of my involvement in the sex industry as an active male sex worker."

"I will only do hand jobs or blow jobs but no anal."

"I really had no choice – it was my only means of financial support."

"I want the good things in life and at the moment I am getting them from my Trade."

"I occasionally get a client who doesn't want to wear a condom. There was one case where I was offered more money if I agreed not to (I was tempted to do it!) – but I thought why should I compromise my

health for a few extra bucks – its just ain't worth it!"

"I don't associate with anyone else within the industry because I don't know anyone."

"NZPC is a friendly environment – comradeship and support"

"I'm an artist and a prostitute."

"It has screwed me up mentally!"

"I don't believe there was this type of group specifically dealing with male sex workers. I have to admit I was sceptical at first, but I

am glad I made the effort."

"I don't know why, but in the majority of cases, the reaction from people is one of disdain, disgust, and usually one if instantly looked down on!"

"I think that life is a learning process and to me nothing is a mistake. In life there is no point in being a victim – you can learn so much in the Industry, and it should have all the support from society as a whole."

"Practise safer sex – absolutely!!"

Hi, My name is John and I work with the male sex workers in Auckland. I work in the evenings on Pitt St, K Rd, handing out free condoms, safe sex information and listening to the male sex workers concerns. "Take a Break" drop in centre in Pitt St is also available to male sex workers as a place to relax, with free tea, coffee, condoms and educational material. John Draper's Art Gallery 10 Beresford St is also an outreach with free condoms and literature. I work in the office of NZPC 76 Grafton Rd from 10 am to 4pm on Wednesdays. I am also available to travel to escort agencies and parlours to meet with male sex workers and listen to their concerns. I can be contacted by phoning 366 6106.

An answerphone is available to leave a confidential message for me if you wish.

From John
NZPC Auckland



At Times Like these...

When you are working it is very likely that at some stage or another you will come across situations or requests that you feel uncomfortable with. From personal experience I feel that it is always important to establish for yourself exactly what you are prepared or not prepared to do. You should always remember that if you feel uncomfortable doing something, then you don't have to do it. If there are other workers offering a service that you don't do and the client has asked for that particular thing don't do it just to please them if it doesn't feel right.

Another sort of problem can arise when a client tries

to beat you down price wise. I am not trying to make clients out to be three horned demons from hell but quite often they will be, shall we say naughty and try to get you to lower your prices if they think they can get away with it. The most common tactic for this is to tell you that Mary-Jo who they saw last week gave whatever to them for an absolutely ridiculous price. They will probably swear black and blue to you that they are not lying and especially would never lie to someone as wonderful and lovely as you. All this would probably be said with the face of innocence and a shocked look will probably appear when you

tell them to take a hike.

My devious little way of dealing with this sort of situation is by repeating what I originally said, and if they still complain say "OK Bob maybe you should have your shower now". I then get up and proceed to tidy up. Nine times out of ten the extra money seems to magically materialise in their wallets.

I think that it is important to keep prices uniform with everyone else. I realise that it is totally up to you what you charge but has anyone stopped to think that if one person starts charging less then clients start expecting things for less. As things stand at present clients are aware of the prices and are

willing to pay them, so in the long run it is our own throats that are cut.

The most important thing that I want to say about this is that for our own sakes please let's have some pride in ourselves. Don't do anything that makes you personally feel bad. Try and remember that you are your own person and try to make decisions that keep you safe and healthy. It is up to each of us to be responsible for our own bodies and our own lives.

I would like to add that this article is based on my personal opinions only, and if you disagree feel free to write in and say so.

Name supplied but withheld

WHAT GETS ON MY GOAT!



Girls Keep Your Standards High

In this poor economic climate it disgusts me to see \$50 for 30 minutes advertised in the Dominion. As an experienced worker from way back it makes me cry when I see workers lowering their standards. Are we adding to the poverty cycle? Think deeply ladies and ask yourself.

Working in the 90s stinks – as for the 80s well we all know how good that was – or do we? Maybe if some of the newer workers could have seen how good it can be they wouldn't sell their souls for a lousy \$50. How many workers are content with one job per shift? And how many workers look at their profession with a sense of professional pride?

Walk into any parlour – how many ladies have chipped nail polish and a poor standard of dress? Instead of dropping your prices make your product (that's you) worth top dollar – use the money you save by not dropping your prices to upgrade your product (you).

You are all worth top dollar – don't sell yourself short!

Just sit and listen to a group of old workers talk about the good old days, a lot more to be proud of then cracking it for \$50.

You know I've had many clients try and cut me down \$20. I simply reply top dollar for top service and I'll make sure you leave me one happy man. They always go for it. I can look in the mirror and honestly say my product is worth top dollar.

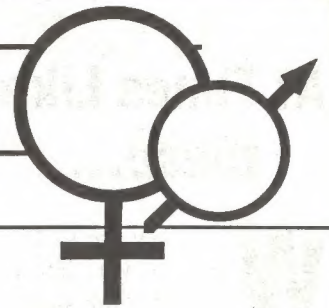
So come on girls take your profession seriously, let's lift the standard so we can all get paid what we deserve.

So, for all you girls charging \$50 remember when you start paying tax, and you will, you'll be left with around \$35. Your soul is worth more.

Best of luck to all cause the way you're going, you're going to need it.

Name and address supplied thank you

AROUND THE REGIONS



Following are the names and addresses of the Australian Sex Workers Associations

- Victoria: Prostitutes Collective of Victoria PCV, 10 Inkerman St, St Kilda 3182 Ph (03) 534 8319
- New South Wales: Sex Worker Outreach Project (SWOP), 391 Riely St, Surry Hills 2010, Ph (02) 212 2600
- South Australia: Prostitutes Association of South Australia (PASA), 64 Fullerton Rd, Norwood 5067 Ph (08) 362 5775
- Queensland: Self Health for Queensland Workers in the Sex Industry (SQWISI), 65 Vulture St, Westend 4101, Ph (07) 844 4565
- Western Australia: Support Information Education and Referral Association (SIERA), 70 Brewer St, Perth 6000, Ph (09) 227 6935
- Australian Capital Territory: WISE in the ACT, PO Box 229 Canberra 2601 Ph (06) 239 2905
- Northern Territory: Prostitutes Association of the Northern Territory (HER PANTHER), 24 Cavenagh St, Darwin 0800 ph (089) 41 1711
- Tasmania: Tasmanian Prostitutes Collective (CYBELE), GPO Box 595F Hobart 7001 Ph (002) 31 1930
- National: Scarlet Alliance, Ground Floor, Ross House, 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000 Ph (03) 650 6797

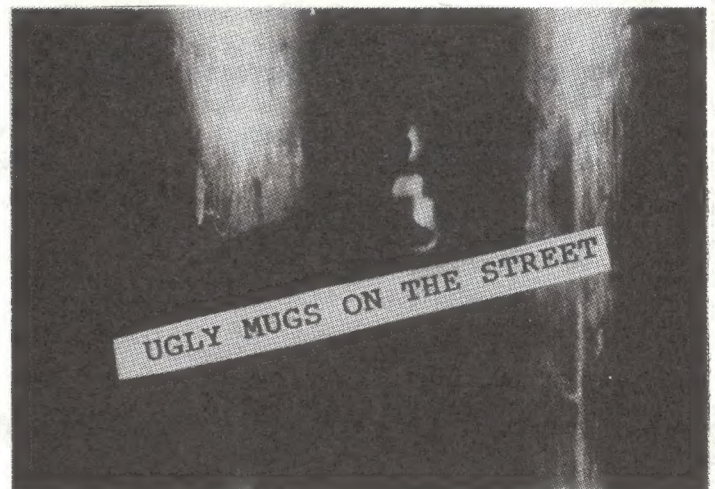
U G L Y M U G S

If you have a client who turns out to be an Ugly Mug, let us know with as much detail as possible for inclusion in the Ugly Mugs list.

When you are working, have someone keep an eye on you when you get into a vehicle, so that they get a description of the vehicle. Sometimes you may get dumped out of the vehicle – try to memorise the vehicle's registration number if you can.

Be Careful Out There. Practice Safe Sex. Look After One Another

If you would like the Ugly Mugs list sent to you regularly, just call our Collective branches and ask.



Ugly Mugs on the Street

Having this list and sharing your knowledge of Ugly Mugs with others helps to make working in the sex industry safer. If you have had trouble with a client, fill out the description sheet on the next page, then phone it through to your branch of NZPC (AK-366 6106/ WGTN 382 8791/ CHCH 365 2595/ DN 477 6988) or bring it to us.

U G L Y
M U G S

DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE

Colour

Make

Distinguishing features

Number plate

DESCRIPTION OF MUG

Name

Age

Height

Hair/beard

Eyes

Distinguishing features (tattoos etc)

Nationality

What does he do?

Weapons

Credit card #

NZPC

NZ Prostitutes Collective
National Office PO Box 11-412
Manners St, Wellington.

We provide...

- Support and a friendly environment
- Condoms and water-based lubricants
- Magazines for workers in the sex industry
- Information on HIV/AIDS and other STDs
- Referral service to sympathetic doctors and other complementary agencies

NZPC Centres

● **Auckland**
76 Grafton Rd
Phone (09) 3666-106

● **Wellington**
282 Cuba St
Phone (04) 382-8791

● **Christchurch**
Phone (03) 365-2595

● **Dunedin**
30 Moray Place
Phone (03) 4776-988



So

Pop in and have a chat or phone us up! If you get the answer-phone, be sure to leave a message and someone will call you back as soon as possible.